

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /091 W

----- 014925

R 220220Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO COMUSSAG NKP THAILAND

COMIPAC HONOLULU

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

SECSTATE WASHDC 8037

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 11069

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS PINS VS

SUBJECT: MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR-3

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION AMEMBASSY SAIGON FROM AMCONSUL BIEN HOA  
AUG 21 REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION

QUOTE

BIEN HOA 446

1. DURING THE 24-HOUR PERIOD ENDING 0800 AUGUST 21, MR-3  
EXPERIENCED 55 MILITARY INCIDENTS; THE MOST SERIOUS OCCURRED AT  
PHUOC TAN OUTPOST IN TAY NINH, WHERE, DURING THE LATE HOURS OF  
AUGUST 20 AFTER A WEEK OF GALLANT FIGHTING THE RF DEFENDERS WERE  
FINALLY OVERRUN. PF FORCES DEFENDING THE CAU KHOI OUTPOST 14 KMS  
NW OF KHIEM HANH DISTRICT TOWN ON LTL 26 WERE ALSO FORCED TO  
ABANDON THEIR POSITION AFTER HEAVY NVA/VC SHELLING AND GROUND  
ASSAULTS DURING THE SAME EVENING. LTL 26 IS CAT AT THAT POINT  
FOR THE MOMENT. IN HAU NGHIA THE SUOI CAO OUTPOST 6 KMS NORTH OF  
TRANG BANG HAS WITHSTOOD CONSTANT SHELLING AND GROUND ASSAULTS  
BUT IS STILL HOLDING. DURING THE MORNING OF AUGUST 21 THE BIEN HOA  
AREA RECEIVED 7 ROUNDS OF 122MM ROCKET, 4 OF WHICH IMPACTED IN THE  
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AIRBASE WOUNDING 2 RVNAF AND THE OTHER 3 IMPACTED ON BIEN HOA'S

OUTSKIRTS, RESULTING IN NO SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE OR CASUALTIES. ALTHOUGH NVA/VC UNITS CONTINUE TO SHELL ARVN ELEMENTS IN BEN CAT DISTRICT, THE SITUATION THERE APPEARS TO HAVE STABILIZED AND THERE ARE NO MAJOR GROUND ATTACKS IN PROGRESS IN THE AREA. INTELLIGENCE REPORTS INDICATE THAT ELEMENTS OF THE 209TH NVA REGT ARE MOVING INTO THE A/O OF THE 165TH NVA REGT IN NORTHERN BIEN HOA'S TAN UYEN DISTRICT. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THE 165TH IS TAKING UP OPERATIONS FURTHER WEST IN THE AREA OF LTL 1-A AND LTL 16.

2. ON AUGUST 20 AT 2210 MR-3 HQ LEARNED THAT PHUOC TAN OUTPOST ON THE CAMBODIAN BORDER HAD FALLEN. IN THE FINAL HOURS COMMUNIST TANKS WERE REPORTEDLY FIRING 100MM CANNONS LESS THAN 1,000 METERS FROM THE RF BUNKERS. INDICATIONS ARE THAT A FRESH BN OF THE E-6 REGT WAS BROUGHT IN FOR THE FINAL KILL. RVNAF ARTILLERY AND AIR SUPPORT IS BELIEVED TO HAVE INFLICTED HEAVY CASUALTIES WITH NVA LOSSES ESTIMATED AS HIGH AS 400 KIA. OF THE 91 MEN DEFENDING THE OUTPOST, 11 HAD RETURNED TO FRIENDLY LINES BY NOON AUGUST 21. THE RF CAPTAIN COMMANDING THE POSITION IS REPORTED TO HAVE ESCAPED THE COMPOUND BUT WAS WOUNDED AND IS CURRENTLY MISSING. MEANWHILE THE 2 REMAINING RF POSITIONS ON LTL 13 WEST OF THE VAM CO DONG, LUU BUU LAM AND BEN SOI, ARE BEING POUNDED BY NVA/VC MORTARS AND ARTILLERY. THE ARVN BN FROM THE 46TH REGT WHICH WAS TO HAVE RELIEVED PHUOC TAN IS NOW LOCATED SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THE TWO REMAINING OUTPOSTS.

3. IN HAU NGHIA, THE COMPANY-SIZE RF OUTPOST AT SUOI CAO (XT 480257) HAS TAKEN SEVERE SHELLING AND GROUND ASSAULTS FROM ELEMENTS BELIEVED TO BE FROM THE NVA 101ST INDEPENDENT REGT. FOLLOWING A COMBINED GROUND ASSAULT AND ABF AT NOON ON AUGUST 21, RF LOSSES WERE SET AT 7 KIA AND 20 WIA WITH 40 SURVIVORS LEFT TO DEFEND THE POSITION. NVA CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED AS 34 KILLED AND ONE CAPTURED. MR-3 HQ BELIEVES THE MISSION OF THE 101ST NVA REGT IS TO INTERDICT THE QL 1 TO TAY NINH. SIGNED PETERS  
UNQUOTE LEHMANN

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